

Virginia Commission for the Arts
Minutes
December 9, 2010
Center for the Arts of Greater Manassas/Prince William County

Members Present: Nick Covatta, Chair; Lisa Alderman, Willie Dell, Gwen Everett, Tina Lea, Ann Edwards Rust; Marcia Neauhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer, Vaughan Webb, and Deborah Wyld

Members Absent: Sharron Kitchen Miller, Evelia Gonzalez Porto, and Ann Bondurant Trinkle

Staff Present: Peggy Baggett, Foster Billingsley, Elizabeth Cantile, and Tiffany Glass Ferreira

Guests: Sally Lay, Center for the Arts; Laura Scanlan and Andi Mathis, National Endowment for the Arts, Jonathan Katz, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies; and Suny Monk, Virginians for the Arts

Introduction

Nick Covatta, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2010. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

National Endowment for the Arts

Peggy Baggett introduced Laura Scanlan and Andi Mathis of the State and Regionals Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. Ms. Scanlan talked about the status of the budget for the NEA and noted that the agency is currently operating under a continuing resolution. She described the research done by the NEA and leadership initiatives, such as Poetry Out Loud and Our Town. She explained the review process and funding formula for the Partnership Grants awarded to state arts agencies. She also talked about the priorities of the current NEA Chair, which are innovation and how the arts can revitalize communities.

2011-12 Guidelines for Funding

Peggy Baggett presented the proposed draft of the Guidelines for Funding for 2011-12. She noted that the Commission had decided in 2009 to adopt one year guidelines in light of the state budget cuts and the large turnover on the board of the Commission. She pointed out that the only change in the guidelines from 2010-11 was clarification that the Commission reserves the right to use an alternative payment system for any grantees in special circumstances.

Vaughan Webb made a motion to adopt the 2011-12 Guidelines for Funding as proposed. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Nick Covatta introduced Jonathan Katz, CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Mr. Katz discussed three major factors affecting state arts agencies at this time - the economy, the changes in the way the public views the appropriate role of government, and shifts in participation in the arts with the expanding use of new media. He gave examples of how state arts agencies around the country are adapting their grant programs and fostering collaboration. He also led a discussion of how to advance the arts in light of the changes facing society as a whole.

Virginians for the Arts

Nick Covatta introduced Suny Monk, President of Virginians for the Arts. Ms. Monk talked about the Virginians for the Arts efforts to contact all 140 legislators prior to the start of the General Assembly session, the new Legislative Counsel, efforts to increase membership, and plans to restructure the organization into a 501(c)3(h) entity.

Tour of Hylton Performing Arts Center

At this point in the meeting the Commission members traveled to the new Hylton Performing Arts Center for a tour and lunch.

Conditional Grants

The Commission reconvened at 2 p.m. Peggy Baggett reported on the status of several grants awarded on a conditional basis. The General Operating Support grants to the Lynchburg Symphony and Virginia Musical Theatre, upon the Commission receipt of requested information, had been approved by the Commission Executive Committee with the second payment on the grant contingent upon a final report that includes year-to-date financial information and plans for the leadership change.

The Commissioners then discussed the status of several Commission grantees that have been struggling in the current economy.

Artist Fellowships

Peggy Baggett presented information on the artists who were recommended for fellowships in the category of works on paper.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to award \$5,000 to the four artists recommended by the review panel:

Jan Knipe, Radford
Janet Grahame Nault, Charlottesville
Tim O'Kane, Charlottesville
Suzanne Stryk, Bristol

Advocacy

Members of the Commission reported on their conversations with members of the General Assembly about arts funding. Nick Covatta reported that he will meet with the Governor on December 14. Peggy Baggett distributed information on the public hearings on the state budget to be held in five locations across the state

Updates

Peggy Baggett reported on the most recent major arts institutions roundtable meeting and on MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts. Nick Covatta and Peggy Baggett reported on the annual meeting of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in Austin, Texas.

Old and New Business

Nick Covatta announced that the Commission has just under \$22,000 in unallocated funds. These funds are the balance left in the performing arts touring program after the performers had completed booking their 2010-11 tours. Several options for the use of these funds were discussed:

- transferring the funds to Technical Assistance and allowing each General Operating Support grantee to apply for one grant
- professional development workshops in locations across the state in the spring of 2011
- providing start-up funds for MINDS WIDE OPEN 2012
- using the funds in some unidentified way to build a stronger partnership with the state Economic Development Authority
- using the funds for some type of research into creative industries in Virginia.

After discussion the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m